

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 233/94 Fear of torture/Possible prisoner of conscience 16 June 1994

SUDAN

Ali Mahmud Hassanein, lawyer, late 50s

Amnesty International fears for the safety of Ali Mahmud Hassanein, a prominent lawyer, who was arrested in Khartoum on 6 June 1994. His current whereabouts are unknown and he may be at risk of torture while in detention. Amnesty International believes he is a prisoner of conscience arrested solely in relation to his professional activities as a lawyer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past year Ali Mahmud Hassanein has led legal defence teams in a number of politically sensitive court cases. His involvement has resulted in his repeated harassment by the security forces. At the time of his arrest he was representing the families of victims of a bombing attack in which he alleged government involvement.

Political prisoners are held without charge or trial in Sudan on the basis of Constitutional Decree Two of 30 June 1989 which established a State of Emergency. The decree bans the "showing of any political opposition by any means to the regime of the Revolution for National Salvation".

Anyone detained by the Sudanese security authorities is at risk of ill-treatment, in particular those held in secret detention centres known as "ghost houses". Those whom the authorities suspect may have information about opposition activities are at risk of severe torture. In the past the authorities have blamed torture and ill-treatment on undisciplined security officials. Amnesty International's information, however, suggests that torture and ill-treatment remain systematic.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in either English, Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest of Ali Mahmud Hassanein, who Amnesty International believes is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely in relation to the legitimate pursuit of his profession;

- expressing concern that he may be being subjected to torture or ill-treatment;

- urging that his whereabouts in custody be made public and that he be granted immediate and regular access to his family, employers, legal counsel and any necessary medical attention;

- urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to a fair trial.

APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency Lieutenant General
Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of the Sudan
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Lt Gen Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22385 PEPLC SD or 22411 KAID SD
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Brigadier-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior
 People's Palace
 PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Brig-Engineer 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammed Husayn, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22842 WZARA SD or 22604 IPOL SD
Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu
 Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
 Ministry of Justice, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Mr 'Abd al-Aziz Shiddu, Khartoum, Sudan
Telexes: 22459 KHRJA SD or 22461 KHRJA SD (via Ministry of Foreign
 Affairs)
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Mr Jalal Ali Lutfi
 Chief Justice
 Law Courts
 Khartoum, Sudan

Mr Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 PO Box 873
 Khartoum, Sudan

Dr A. al-Mufti
 Secretary of Human Rights Commission*
 Khartoum, Sudan

* The Human Rights Commission is a government-backed body, nominally independent, but apparently created to counter what the government perceives as hostile human rights propaganda.

and to diplomatic representatives of Sudan accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 July 1994.